

doomed for his sins to read the Seven Penitential Psalms every day, to see him forgetting so soon the docility of those undoubting days and setting himself up, God help him, as a controvertist and Protestant."

## JOHN O'MAHONY

John O'Mahony, organiser of the Fenian Movement and its Head Centre in America for many years, was born in Kilbehenny, County Limerick, in the year 1816. He came from a family of strong farmers and was educated at a classical school in Cork and at Trinity College. Although never taking out his degree, he was a good classical and Irish scholar. In addition, he studied Hebrew and Sanscrit and knew sufficient French to be able to write articles on Ireland for the French newspapers during his exile in France. In 1857, he published in New York a translation of Geoffrey Keating's great History of Ireland, a work described by Dr. Todd as far superior to the earlier translation of O'Connor's.

But rebellion was in O'Mahony's blood, for both his father and his grandfather had taken part in the Rising of 1798, and it is as a man of action rather than an accomplished literateur that he will be remembered. As a young man he joined the O'Connell Repeal Movement, but as this moved too slowly for his impatient enthusiasm he seceded with Smith O'Brien in 1845, helped to form the Young Ireland Party, and took part in the abortive rebellion at Ballinacorney in the year 1848. On the arrest of O'Brien, O'Mahony took to the hills bordering on Kilkenny and Waterford and for some months kept up a guerilla warfare against the army.

He was eventually compelled to flee the country, escaped to France, and lived in great poverty in Paris for several years. In 1854, he joined Mitchel in New York and besides preparing his translation of Keating's history, occupied his time in assisting the various American-Irish organisations, while biding his time to renew the struggle against England. Four years later, in collaboration with James Stephens, he formed the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood, or, as they are popularly known, the Fenians. At this time he occupied the post of Colonel in the American Army, but relinquished the post in order to give his whole time to the new movement.

Through his efforts, between £40,000 and £80,000 was sent to Ireland to help equip a rebel army, but he does not seem to have taken an active part in either the Canadian raids or the abortive Irish rebellion of 1867. The latter event temporarily exhausted the Fenian effort, and although the organisation dragged on for some time, with O'Mahony as its Head Centre, it achieved nothing. O'Mahony devoted his latter days almost entirely to literary pursuits and died in New York on 7th Feb.,

1877, aged 61. His remains were brought back to Ireland and after a great public funeral were buried with ceremony in Glasnevin Cemetery.

An American newspaper of the day described O'Mahony: — "John O'Mahony was a strange being. He was tall and well formed, and had shaggy dark brown hair and handsomely chiselled features, but a haggard and careworn expression. He had friends who were willing to sacrifice everything for him; yet he was often sadly in need of a dollar, and when his poverty was discovered he declined to receive assistance in any shape or form. He seemed to care nothing for success in life, his whole mind being absorbed with one idea—rebellion in Ireland."

In the Limerick City Museum is one of the medals struck to commemorate the defeat of the Fenian Raids on Canada, and one of the Bonds issued in raising the loan for Ireland. The latter contains a portrait of Wolfe Tone and read: —"It is hereby certified that the Irish Republic is indebted to bearer, five dollars, redeemable six months after the acknowledgment of the independence of the Irish Nation at the Treasury of the Irish Republic. March 17th, 1866. (Signed) John O'Mahony, Agent for the Irish Nation."

Mr. de Valera has recently offered to redeem these bonds, but, unfortunately, was unable to obtain John O'Mahony's sanction for his generous act.

### SIR WILLIAM OUSELEY

Sir William Ouseley, orientalist, was the eldest son of Captain Ralph Ouseley of Limerick by his wife, Elizabeth Holland, of the same city. He was born in the year 1767, probably in Limerick, and his younger brother was Sir Gore Ouseley, the noted diplomatist.

Like his brother, William was educated by Doctor Robinson, a private tutor, but he went to Paris to complete his studies in 1787. In the following year he joined a regiment of dragoons, but, not liking the profession he returned to his studies at Leyden, where he concentrated on the literature and history of Persia. In the year 1795, he published a work on Persian manuscripts and orthography, entitled *Persian Miscellanies*.

In 1796, he returned to England and rejoined the army. He remained in it just long enough to be gazetted major, and then retired from it for good, marrying Julia Irving in the same year, and setting down in earnest to the study of Persian. The result soon appeared in an *Epitome of the Ancient History of Persia*, a translation of a Persian geography, as well as a literary classic, and a collection of the best Persian literature in three volumes, entitled *Oriental Collections*. He was the first great western Persian scholar, and his work was well appreciated.